(a) whether it is a fact that Government have notified new norms for food grain procurement;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are going to cut food grain allocation to States taking into account the recent average off-take;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is methodology proposed to be used by Government to allocate food grains to States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Food Corporation of India and State Agencies procure foodgrains which conform to the prescribed specifications at the Minimum Support Price.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Loss due to procurements by the State Governments

†2081. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the States which are purchasing paddy, rice and wheat directly from farmers and the States where the same are being purchased through the Food Corporation of India;

(b) the reasons for this variation;

(c) whether the State Governments are incurring losses due to such purchase by them;

(d) if so, the quantum of such losses incurred during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the reasons for such losses and the details of compensation paid to States for such losses, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) Foodgrains conforming to specifications are procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State agencies in various States at the minimum support prices fixed by the Government. However, the relative share of procurement by the FCI and the State agencies varies from State to State.

Some States have adopted the decentralized procurement system wherein the procured foodgrains are retained for local distribution under the Targeted Public Distribution System and other Welfare Schemes and the Central Government reimburses the difference between the economic cost of foodgrains so distributed and the Central Issue Prices, as food subsidy. The quantum of food subsidy released to such States during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

State	Subsidy released		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Madhya Pradesh	128.27	66.74	118.75
Uttar Pradesh	1120.70	975.62	1377.96
West Bengal	81.19	27.41	179.97
Chhattisgarh	158.60	89.94	628.87
Uttaranchal	13.97	80.43	92.73
Tamil Nadu	—	45.82	27.21
Orissa	—	—	40.96

BPL families in Punjab

2082. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of families identified as living Below Poverty line in Punjab for providing food-grains under Public Distribution System;

(b) whether there is any proposal to revamp the entire Public Distribution System in Punjab in near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System